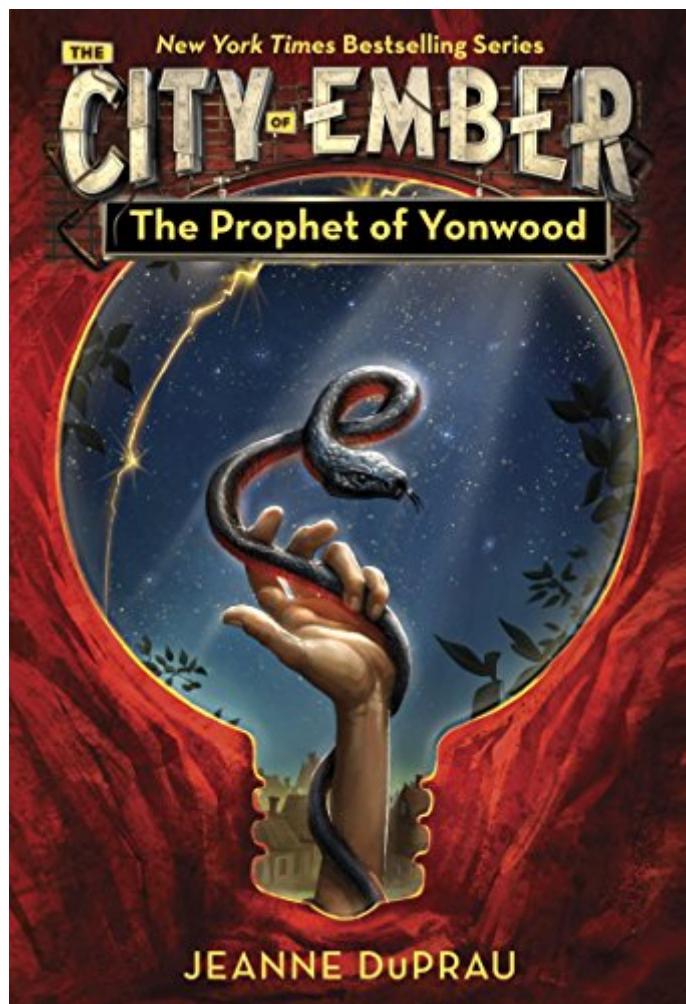


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The Prophet Of Yonwood (Book Of Ember 3)



Synopsis

A prequel to the modern-day classic *The City of Ember*. This highly acclaimed adventure series has captivated kids and teachers alike for almost fifteen years and has sold over 3.5 MILLION copies! Nickie will grow up to be one of the first citizens of the city of Ember. But for now, she's an eleven-year-old girl whose father was sent away on some mysterious government project. So when the opportunity to move presents itself, Nickie seizes it. But her new town of Yonwood, North Carolina, isn't what she'd anticipated. It's a place full of suspicion and mistrust, where one person's visions of fire and destruction have turned the town's citizens against each other. Nickie explores the oddities around her: her great-grandfather's peculiar journals, a reclusive neighbor who studies the heavens, a strange boy who is fascinated with snakes—all while keeping an eye out for ways to help the world. Or is it already too late to avoid a devastating war? Praise for the *City of Ember* books: Nominated to 28 State Award Lists! An American Library Association Notable Children's Book A New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing Selection A Kirkus Reviews Editors' Choice A Child Magazine Best Children's Book A Mark Twain Award Winner A William Allen White Children's Book Award Winner A œA realistic post-apocalyptic world. DuPrau's book leaves Doon and Lina on the verge of undiscovered country and readers wanting more. "USA Today" œAn electric debut. • "Publishers Weekly, Starred" œWhile Ember is colorless and dark, the book itself is rich with description. "VOYA, Starred" œA harrowing journey into the unknown, and cryptic messages for readers to decipher. "Kirkus Reviews, Starred

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Customer Reviews

This is not The City of Ember, nor is it The People of Sparks, both brilliantly inventive novels. At the end, I wondered why it was included in the "Ember" series, because very little in the book actually tied directly into the other two. I didn't read this with the sense of urgency that I read the other Ember books with, and I believe wholeheartedly that if this had been the first Ember book written, The City of Ember would not have reached the large audience that it did, or been properly recognized as a work of creative genius. This is the problem with writing prequels after the fact: the reader already knows the outcome, and unless you can tell one heck of a story that gives added insight into what is coming next, then the prequel shouldn't be written. What might have made this story more compelling would have been to take the entire book, shorten it dramatically, make it the first 1/4 to 1/3 of the book, and have the last part of the book tell the story of the actual settling of Ember after the U.S. and the Phalanx Nations (odd name, that) bombed the dickens out of each other. THAT would have grabbed my attention, and made for interesting reading. We know that Ember was peopled, but we don't know how that first generation coped with losing the wind and the sky, so to speak, and those are enormous losses unless you're a mole and prefer living underground. Or, for that matter, devote maybe three chapters to events leading up to the mass bombing, have the bombing occur, then have 9/10 of the book devoted to the settling of Ember. Forget the prophet. Give the prophet her own book (which this could easily have done simply by excising the final chapter). As a stand alone book, this does have merit.

I was in Borders, in a rush, saw The Prophet of Yonwood on the shelf, saw it was a prequel to The City Of Ember and The People of Sparks-both of which I love, and bought it. I didn't even read the inside to even see what it was about. Even after I got into the car and saw the cheesy list on the inside—"Keep Greenhaven, fall in love, help the world"-I had faith in Jeanne Duprau that she would write a great story. I hate to say she let me down, but she did. The Prophet of Yonwood starts out

interesting-at least, the prologue is. But it goes steadily down hill from there. Althea Tower, a resident in the small town of Yonwood, has a vision of Armageddon. With a war coming up, people think her senseless mutterings that began after her vision are ways to protect them from the war. But in the end, all they end up doing is making the whole town miserable, yet they still believe they are doing the right thing. An 11 year old girl named Nickie moves to with her aunt to sell her great-granfather's old house, and Nickie gets caught up in events.I waited the whole book for some mentioning of Ember, but it didn't happen until the last 5 pages, and then only briefly.This book had no action in it. Nothing happened. I got really excited because I thought there was going to be a war in the book, but there was nothing. Nothing. No description of bombings, fights, etc...I'm normally not a violent person, but after reading about Nickie moaning and groaning and talking and basically doing nothing for 100 pages, I was dying for something to happen.A lot of the extra things Jeanne Duprau put in the story didn't help the overall part of the plot at all.

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